

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 221253Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3503

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CJCS

COMUSSAG

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 11536

E.O.M 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUB: CONSCRIPTION STATUS REPORT

REF: PHNOM PENH 11413

1. FOLLOWING THE CONFUSION OF OCTOBER 19 (REXTEL) EXAMINING  
BOARDS HAVE BEEN MOVED BACK TO THE VARIOUS KHAND OFFICES AND  
THE UNREALISTPC 2,500 MAN QUOTA FOR PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN  
REDUCED TO 500, THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF THE FANK RECEPTION  
CENTER (WHERECONSCRIPTS ARE NOW STAYING FOR 24 HOURS  
RATHER THAN THE ORIGINAL 2 DAYS), BEGINNING TODAY. THE  
SYSTEM THUS APPEARS TO BE REACHING AN EQUILIBRIUM WHICH  
WILL HOPEFULLY RESULT IN A CONTINUING FLOW OF NEW CONSCRIPTS  
WITHOUT OVERLOADING THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR  
PROCESSING THEM.

2. THE CHIEF OF KHAND DAUN PENH ONE OF THE SMALLER  
PHNOM PENH SUBDIVISIONS WAS GUARDELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT  
FULFPLLING THE NEW QUOTA AND SAID THAT HE HAS MADE  
PROGRESS IN INVOLVING LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS IN CON-  
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SCRIPTION EFFORTS. THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE INCREASED

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE NOW ARRIVING. HE SAID. ON THE OTHER HAND THE CHIEF OF KHAND DECHO, THE CITY'S LARGEST, TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT THE POLICE AND GENDARMARIE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE MORE THAN A TOKEN NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED TO RESPOND TO CONVOCATION ORDERS IN HIS SUBDIVISION. UNTIL CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IS MADE IN THIS AREA THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM CANNOT BE TERMED A SUCCESS.

3. AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 21 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 2,393 RECRUITS (838 CONSCRIPTS AND 1,555 VOLUNTEERS). PHNOM PENH CITY OFFICIAL REPORT THAT A TOTAL OF 12,000 CONVOCATIONS WERE SENT OUT FOR OCTOBER 19 (THE DAY THE 2,500 QUOTA WENT INTO EFFECT) RESULTING IN 4,670 RESPONSES AND 472 NEW CONSCRIPTS. IN ADDITION THERE WERE 148 VOLUNTEERS FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 620 RATHER THAN THE 136 INITIALLY INDICATED IN REFTEL. THE NUMBERS WERE REDUCED ON THE 20TH AND 21ST WITH 3,308 AND 2,645 CONVOCATIONS RESPECTIVELY AND TOTALS OF 238 AND 89 NEW RECRUITS, INCLUDING 66 VOLUNTEERS ON BOTH DAYS. THE POOR PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY REFLECTS A DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY BY LOCAL OFFICIALS RATHER THAN ANY DOWNWARD TREND AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATE THAT MORE THAN 300 CONSCRIPTS AND VOLUNTEERS WERE PROCESSED TODAY.

4. ALTHOUGH SOME DIFFICULTIES REMAIN, IN PARTICULAR THE PROBLEM OF SEEKING OUT THOSE WHO FAIL TO RESPOND TO CONVOCATION ORDERS, INDICATIONS NOW ARE THAT THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM IS OPERATING SMOOTHLY. ONCE MORE IT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS DISRUPTED BY ORDERS FROM ABOVE OR OUTSIDE INFLUENCES.  
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